A 1715

DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE:

A most Wonderful SPECIFICK REMEDY for the Cure of *Convulsive Distempers.*

Calculated for the Benefit of the Poor as well as the Rich, and heartily recommended for the Common Good of Mankind.

The THIRD EDITION.

To which is added,

A SECOND PART, containing farther Remarks and Observations.

By Sir *JOHN COLBATCH,*
A Member of the College of Physicians.

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THE

PREFACE.

I Have been many Years a Debtor to the World, and ſince I have not as yet been able to pay off my old Scores to my own Satiſfaction, the following Diſſertation comes out by way of Compo-

Compoſition: which I hope will be accepted in part of Payment, till the original Debt can be diſcharged.

That this comes out alone, is from an Impreſſion that I have had upon my Spirits for ſome Weeks paſt, that it would be highly criminal in me to let another Miſletoe-Seaſon paſs, without informing the World what a Treaſure God Almighty has every Year preſented to their View; and that nobody, at leaſt very few, have received any Benefit from it.

The Article of *Convulſions*, in the Bills of Mortality of this Great City, is by much

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the largeſt of any, very commonly amounting to about a fifth Part of the whole; and, as I have been credibly inform'd, happens principally amongſt Infant Children: from whence it ſeems plain, that a Generous Anti-Convulſive Remedy is wanting. I have publiſh'd the Noble Qualities of this Wonderful Medicine, in the moſt plain and familiar manner, that thereby it may be render'd of more publick Uſe; and I am not without the greateſt Hopes, that People of all Ranks will receive Benefit from it.

I hope I ſhall not be blam'd for the Earneſtneſs of my Recommendation of this Neglected, but Extraordinary Plant; becauſe my own Aim in ſo doing, is to preſs People to the Uſe of that, which every Family may, one time or other, receive Advantage from.

The Performance is rough and unpoliſhed; but I have choſen rather to ſuffer Reproach upon that Account, than let another Seaſon ſlip, which I am ſatisfied would be to the Detriment of many.

A DISSERTATION CONCERNING *MISLETOE.*

HAVING ſome Years ſince had a very terrible Inſtance of an Epileptical Caſe in one that was moſt near and dear to me, and which baffled all Endeavours that were uſed for his Recovery; it occaſion'd me many ſad and ſerious Reflections upon the Subject. As he

was daily before my Eyes, ſo his Diſtreſs made the more ſenſible Impreſſions upon me. I had recourſe to the moſt celebrated Remedies recommended in all Ages, and the Aſſiſtance of my Friends moſt Eminent in their Profeſſion.

Four or five Years were ſpent in fruitleſs Attempts, he every Year growing worſe and worſe, till at laſt he became Cataleptick: he would be ſeiz'd as he was ſtanding, and continue in that Poſture like a lifeleſs Statue, without Senſe or Motion. When he was ſo ſeiz'd, he was conſtantly laid upon a Bed or Couch; his Fit would laſt ſome Hours: but I am confident, that had he been let alone, he would have continued in the ſame Poſture in which he was ſeiz'd, during the whole time of the Fit.

Being one day upon a Journey, I ſaw ſome Hazle-Trees plentifully ſtock'd with Miſletoe. It immediately enter'd into my Mind, that there muſt

be

be ſomething extraordinary in that uncommon beautiful Plant; that the Almighty had deſign'd it for farther and more noble Uſes, than barely to feed Thruſhes, or to be hung up ſuperſtitiouſly in Houſes to drive away evil Spirits; and that the Miſletoe, that grew upon other Trees, was capable of being as ſerviceable to Mankind, as that which grew upon the Oak.

Amongſt many other Authors that have wrote concerning the Epilepſy, I had lately read *Marcus Marci*, his *Liturgia Mentis*; the moſt ſatisfactory Treatiſe upon the Subject, as to Theory, that I have met with, and indeed to lay a Foundation for a Phyſician to practiſe rationally in the Cure of all Convulſive Diſtempers.

Having made the moſt ſtrict Inquiry into the Nature of Miſletoe that I was capable of, I concluded, *à priori*, That it was a Medicine very likely to ſubdue not only the Epilepſy, but all

other Convulsive Disorders, upon the foot of *Marcus Marci*'s Hypothesis; I mean the ordinary and common Misletoe. The Praises of Misletoe of the Oak had been proclaim'd for many Ages past, and none else esteem'd or regarded, as to any Medicinal Virtue.

The Youth before-mentioned had indeed taken Misletoe in small Quantities in the *Pulvis de Gutteta*, and other Compound Remedies recommended in Epileptical Cases; but when I reflected that Misletoe was but one Ingredient amongst a *Farrago* of others, there was no determining, from the Effects of those Medicines, whether Misletoe were capable of doing any thing towards the conquering of so *Herculean* a Distemper.

In reading the scatter'd and imperfect Accounts of the *Druids*, formerly Priests and Philosophers in this Island and other neighbouring Countries, who were had in the highest Veneration by People of all Ranks; I con-

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jectur'd that this Veneration in great meaſure proceeded from the wonderful Cures they wrought by means of the Miſletoe of the Oak: this Tree being ſacred to them, but none ſo, that had not Miſletoe upon them; which Conſideration alſo further prompted me to try common Miſletoe in its utmoſt extent. After I had ſeen ſome of its amazing Effects, I concluded that it was from this Divine Remedy that they had almoſt Divine Honours paid them.

But Miſletoe of the Oak being the only Miſletoe recommended as good for any thing, I was in great Straits how to procure a quantity of it; for I did not remember in all my Travels to have ſeen any of it: ſo amongſt all my Acquaintance, from that time to this, I do not know that I have met with above two that have.

This put me upon conſidering whether or no the Miſletoe receiv'd any Advantage from the Tree upon which

it

it grew, or whether all Miſletoe were not the ſame.

After my Thoughts had been ſome time employ'd upon this Subject, I concluded that the Miſletoe of the Crab, the Lime, the Pear, or any other Tree, were of equal Virtue with that of the Oak, for the following Reaſons; and which has been confirm'd to me ſince by large Experience, which is beyond every thing elſe.

Now ſuppoſe that the Miſletoe of the Oak does ſurpaſs that of all other Trees; yet from ten Years large Experience I find the ordinary Miſletoe to be the moſt Noble Medicine I ever knew: and ſince it's every where to be had, at leaſt in this Iſland, it ought to be eſteem'd as a great Bleſſing; and if the other excel it, thoſe that are capable of procuring it, ought to eſteem it accordingly.

But if the Miſletoe were in any manner produced from the Tree upon which it grows, as the Gaul is from

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the Oak; then it might reaſonably be expected that it ſhould partake of the Quality of the Tree that produces it, as the Gaul does, having the ſame ſtiptick Qualities with the Acorn, or the Bark of the Tree. But as it's propagated by the way of Inoculating, or Grafting, it's quite otherwiſe.

An Apricock or a Peach grafted upon a Plumb-Stock, or a fine Apple or Pear upon a Crab-Tree one, will not produce Plumbs or Crabs, but Apricocks and Peaches, and fine Pears and Apples.

As far as I can learn, Miſletoe is commonly propagated after the following manner: There is a Bird generally known by the Name of the Miſletoe Thruſh; which Name, I ſuppoſe, it derives from its feeding upon Miſletoe Berries during the Winter-Seaſon. From the Pulp of the Berries it is nouriſhed, but the Seeds are diſcharged with the Excrement undigeſted. Now the Excrement being of a ſlimy

nature,

nature, ſticks faſt to the Branches of the Trees upon which it falls; and if there be any Crack in the Bark, there the Seed lodges itſelf, and produces a Plant the next Year. The Excrement being of the nature of Birdlime, and Birdlime, as it's ſaid, being to be made of the Berries of the Plant; I ſuppoſe gave riſe to that very old Saying, That *Turdus cacat in ſui Excidium.*

It has been often propagated by cutting a Slit into the Bark of a Tree, and ſticking in a Seed. I have been told of one that has adorn'd his Trees with it, to make them delightful in the Winter-Seaſon: and ſurely a more beautiful Plant can ſcarce be ſeen.

Pliny ſays, That it is apt to exhauſt and wear out the Tree upon which it grows; in which I am inclined to believe he was miſtaken. The Reaſon, I ſuppoſe, that induc'd him to be of that Opinion, was, That it moſt frequently grows upon old Trees. Now I conclude, that it more frequently

grows

grows upon them than young ones, becauſe the Twigs and Branches of the old Trees are more liable to Cracks and Accidents than young ones are: and being moſt commonly ſeen upon old Trees, he from thence concluded that they were worn out by it.

There ſeems however to be a Difference betwixt this Plant, and all other Trees propagated by Grafting or Inoculating; they being moſt certainly intirely nouriſhed by the Juice of the Stock into which they are inſerted: notwithſtanding which, as is before obſerv'd, they change the Nature of the Juice, brought up by the Stock, into their own. But whether Miſletoe receives its full Nouriſhment from the Juice of the Tree, ſeems to me a Doubt. It's true, it continues alive during the Summer, but it does not begin to flouriſh and appear in Vigour, till the Sap of the Tree is fallen, or otherwiſe ſpent, and the Leaves dropt. Its Berries are full ripe, and

in perfection, about the latter end of *December*; and the more rigorous and ſevere the Weather is, the more vigorous and flouriſhing is the Miſletoe. Now conſidering that the Sap or nutricious Juice of the Tree is at this time in a manner ſpent, I am inclin'd to conjecture that it derives its principal Support from the Air. I have had ſome thoughts that it was no hard matter to try by eaſy Experiments, whether this be ſo or not; but being confined to the Town, I have wanted Conveniences of ſo doing.

How it thrives in hot Countries, or whether it ever grows upon thoſe Trees that never caſt their Leaves, I am ignorant.

Of all the antient Authors that take notice of it, which I have read, *Pliny* in his *Natural Hiſtory* ſeems to be moſt full; but what he ſays is little to the purpoſe: and almoſt every body elſe recommends Miſletoe of the Oak in Epileptical Caſes, but none of them give

give Directions how even that ſhould be uſed in a rational manner.

Amongſt the Moderns, the Honourable Mr. *Boyle*, in the ſecond Part of his *Uſefulneſs of Experimental Philoſophy*, pag. 174. gives the following Relation.

'A young Lady of great Birth 'having been long troubled with an 'almoſt Hereditary Epileptical Diſ-'temper, and after having been wea-'ried by Courſes of Phyſick preſcrib'd 'her by the famouſeſt Doctors that 'could be procured, without mend-'ing at all, but rather growing worſe; 'ſo that ſometimes ſhe would have in 'one day eight or ten of ſuch diſmal 'Fits as you and I have ſeen her in; 'was cured only by the Powder of 'the true Miſletoe of the Oak, given 'as much as would lie upon a Sixpence, 'early in the Morning, in Black-'Cherry Water, or even in Beer, for 'ſome days near the full Moon. And 'I am aſſured, partly by the Patient

 'herſelf,

‘ herſelf, and partly by thoſe that
‘ gave her the Medicine, that though
‘ it had ſcarce any ſenſible Operation
‘ upon her, and did not make her
‘ ſickiſh, eſpecially when ſhe ſlept up-
‘ on it; yet after the firſt day ſhe took
‘ it, ſhe never had but one Fit. And
‘ this Remedy an antient Gentleman,
‘ who being caſually preſent when ſhe
‘ ſuddenly fell down as dead, gave it
‘ her, profeſs'd himſelf conſtantly to
‘ have cured that Diſtemper with it,
‘ when he could procure the right Sim-
‘ ple, which is here exceeding ſcarce.
‘ And what further Experiments ſome
‘ Friends of yours have ſucceſsfully
‘ made, I may elſewhere have occa-
‘ ſion to relate.

My moſt worthy Friend Dr. *Cole*, encouraged by the common Voice of Antiquity, and being farther prompted to it by this Relation of Mr. *Boyle*, was induced to try what it would do upon a Patient that fell into his hands by the Death of his former Phyſician, who

who for three Months had in vain been attempting his Cure. He relates the Case and the Circumstances of his Cure as follows.

'A certain Youth of a sprightly 'Genius, of about fifteen Years of 'Age, who at first had laboured under a Fever, from which he was perfectly freed, was soon after attack'd 'with an Epileptical Fit, which was 'about three Months since: after a 'few days another, and after that with 'many, but without any regular Periods. These Fits had so affected 'his Nerves, and brought such a 'Weakness upon all his Joints, that 'he could not walk without difficulty, 'nor lift the Weight of a few Ounces 'with his Hands, nor hold a Pen to 'write withal, in which he before excelled. To this Youth various Remedies having before been given 'without success, I prescribed a Vomit of Salt of Vitriol; then a Purge 'or two with some Calomel. Afterwards

'wards I took care that Miſletoe of 'the Oak ſhould be given him twice 'a-day, with ſome Cephalick Vehicle; 'and the Apothecary had procured 'the Miſletoe that was genuine: (Hap-'py he! for to this time I could ne-'ver procure any.) Proceeding in 'this order, his Fits never returned. 'The Miſletoe being continued to 'this time, he ſenſibly perceived a 'gradual Reſtoration of the Strength 'of all the Parts; ſo that he could 'now not only walk, but run, and 'write elegantly, of which I was an 'Eye-witneſs. So that I have reaſon 'to hope, that from the continued 'Uſe of this Medicine, he may be per-'fectly freed from his Illneſs, *&c.*'

The good Doctor was one of thoſe that afforded his utmoſt Aſſiſtance to the diſtreſſed Youth before-mention'd; but no Miſletoe of the Oak being to be procured, all other Miſletoe was looked upon as deſpicable; and the reaſon why the *Pulvis de Guttetâ* did

no

no good, was judg'd to proceed from the Apothecary's making uſe of common Miſletoe in the Compoſition of it, inſtead of that of the Oak. But be that as it will, and let the Difference be ever ſo great, the Quantity of Miſletoe in that Compoſition is ſo ſmall, as to render it of no effect. And as for the Miſletoe contained in the Anti-Epileptick Waters, the great *Zwelfer* has remark'd, that it will not yield any of its Virtues by ordinary Diſtillation.

Miſletoe of the Oak not being to be obtain'd, I furniſh'd myſelf with a large Quantity of that of the Lime; the Trees in one of the Parks at *Hampton-Court* affording great Plenty, at leaſt they did ſo at that time. I order'd it to be gather'd at the latter end of *December*: The Leaves, Berries, and very tender Twigs, I got dried over a Baker's Oven, where there was a conſtant gentle Heat, and then had it made into very fine Powder, to be put into a Glaſs cover'd with Bladder

Bladder or Leather, and kept in a very dry Place. If it be not kept close and dry, it will contract a Dampness, grow mouldy, and be good for nothing: If it be scorched by the Fire in drying, it will also be spoil'd, and of no effect.

The larger Stalks must also be carefully dry'd and preserv'd, for Decoctions and Infusions.

Furnish'd with my Medicine, tho' of no Reputation, not being suspended upon the Oak; I was very impatient to see the Effect of it, and immediately went to work with it.

The distressed Youth had for five Years been labouring in vain, and every Month grew worse and worse; so that his Constitution both of Body and Mind was spoil'd to such a degree, that I could not be so presumptuous as to hope for a Cure: The utmost I could wish for, was some Relief, and to render the Remainder of his Life someway comfortable to him.

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From being one of the ſprightlieſt of Youths at Twelve Years of Age, at Seventeen he was a perfect Mope, a moſt melancholy Spectacle both in and out of his Fits. However, bad as he was, having carefully inquired into the Nature of my Medicine, I went to work with it: I was ſure it could do him no hurt, if it did him no good.

His Fits in the beginning kept pace with the Moon, he rarely having any but about the New or the Full; but in Tract of Time he had them at all Seaſons: ſo I began with him, without any regard to that Affair.

From the firſt I gave him half a Dram of the Powder, made into a Bolus with Syrup of Pioneys, every ſix Hours; and after it a large Draught of a ſtrong Infuſion of the Stalks bruiſed, and ſweetned with Syrup of Pioneys.

To my great ſurprize he had not one Fit from the time he began to take

this Glorious Medicine, for a Month or more, and never one Cataleptick Fit to the day of his Death. He continued to take it on for three Years, but after ſome Months, only Night and Morning; and, in the main, during that whole Space, he enjoy'd his Health tolerably well. But as his Memory had been almoſt intirely loſt by the former Five-Years Calamity, ſo it was not judg'd proper to ſet him to any ſort of hard Study, or employ him in any Buſineſs that ſhould give him any trouble: Upon which ſcore it was thought neceſſary to ſend him into the Country, to a good Air, with one conſtantly to keep him company, and to ſecure him againſt Accidents.

There he lived, with great Comfort to himſelf, and Pleaſure to thoſe he convers'd with; and was ſometimes capable of applying himſelf to his Studies. He would now and then have a Fit, but ſometimes not one in three Months; and thoſe Fits he had,

very

very favourable ones, which he had always Warnings of beforehand, ſo that he could be truſted on horſeback.

At laſt he was taken ill in a manner different from what he had formerly been, and died in about four and twenty Hours. I could not ſee him after he was dead, but deſired that his Head ſhould be open'd; having great reaſon to believe, that the beginning of his Illneſs proceeded from an unfortunate Blow upon the left Temple, in which Part he would often complain of great Pain, eſpecially in the firſt part of his Illneſs, before he became ſtupid. And the Account I had of that matter, was, That there was a blackiſh Spot upon the *Dura Mater*, of the bigneſs of a Shilling, juſt under the *Os Temporis*.

It's true here was no Cure, neither could I expect one: I had the utmoſt Succeſs I could reaſonably propoſe to myſelf, which was to render the ſhort Remains of a miſerable Life com-

fortable and eaſy; And by ſo doing, to have a reaſonable Opportunity of introducing to the World a moſt Glorious and Uſeful Medicine; which has one peculiar Property attending it, That it is capable of doing the greateſt Good in the moſt formidable of Diſeaſes, and, I dare ſay, will never do any Hurt.

The Jeſuits Bark is a moſt Noble Medicine in Fevers regularly intermitting, and in ſome other Caſes: but I have frequently known the Miſapplication of it, of terrible and fatal Conſequence. But for Miſletoe, I dare engage for it, that it will never hurt any one; and tho it be ſo innocent, yet it will frequently cure Diſeaſes, that in appearance (as the Great Dr. *Willis* repreſents them, in his Deſcription of the Epilepſy, in his Tract *de Morbis Convulſivis*) do not much differ from thoſe we read of in the Goſpels, that were cured by the Redeemer of the World, the Eternal Son of God: But

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his Cures were wrought by a Word, and not by Medicines. Glory be to him, that in the abſence of himſelf has created ſuch Medicines for the Relief of the Diſtreſſed, as this I am treating of!

No one can think that I am ſo far diveſted of Reaſon, as to recommend this Medicine in the manner I do, there not being the leaſt Proſpect of Advantage to myſelf in it; but that I am ſure of its Effects, from thorough Experience, and that I have all imaginable Reaſon to believe that it will prove of general Advantage to the World: there not being a Family, to which it may not at one time or other be of the greateſt Uſe.

I have many times known about a Scruple of the Powder, mix'd with a little Black-Cherry Water, reſtore Children that have been agonized with the moſt exquiſite Convulſions that can be conceived; but then it has been repeated in leſs quantity very often,

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till they were perfectly well. I hardly ever knew it given to Children without advantage: A Cure is not always to be expected, but Relief is a great Bleſſing in ſuch miſerable Diſeaſes.

It's good in their Gripes, either to obtund the Acrimony of the Bile or Pancreatick Juices; and if they will not take it any other way, may be given in their Pap, Pannadoe, or Breaſt-Milk. Even to Infants there can be no Error in giving them too much, but the more they take, the better; it being of a nouriſhing Quality, and no ways hot, or in the leaſt tending to throw them into a Fever; nay, is rather of itſelf a Febrifuge. I have often found it of great uſe in the diſmal ſlow Fevers, attended with Convulſive Symptoms.

I have never, through the Courſe of my Practice, ſeen but two Perſons labouring under that frightful Diſtemper called the *Chorea Sancti Vitis*, or St. *Vites*'s Dance; or at leaſt that might be truly

truly called ſo. The firſt was before I knew the Uſe of Miſletoe: She had the Aſſiſtance of other Phyſicians beſides me; but in ſpite of all that could be done, ſhe died miſerably.

About three Years ſince, the ſecond, a Girl of about Seven Years of Age, was brought to me. Every Muſcle of her ſeem'd to be convuls'd; if ſhe were upon her Feet, ſhe was always dancing, and throwing her Arms about; the Muſcles of her Face would be variouſly diſtorted, and her Head moving backward or forward, or from ſide to ſide, ſo as to be a moſt moving Object of Compaſſion. If ſhe were in Bed, ſhe was under the ſame Circumſtances; one being obliged to be conſtantly by her, to keep the Clothes upon her, and ſhe had no Sleep. She took about two Drams of the Powder every day, and by that time ſhe had taken twelve or fourteen Ounces, ſhe was made perfectly well, and ſo continues. She grew better by that time

ſhe

ſhe had taken it two days, and in a manner well in about a Fortnight: but I order'd the Continuance of the Medicine, till ſhe had taken the quantity before-mention'd, to ſecure her againſt Returns.

I have an intimate Acquaintance, an excellent Gentlewoman, who had labour'd under Convulſive Diſorders for twenty Years, and did not want the beſt Advice; her Life was render'd thoroughly miſerable: But by the Uſe of the Powder of Miſletoe for a Year or two, ſhe is become perfectly well, enjoying the Comfort of Life as much as any one does.

I have known ſo many Inſtances, both in Young and Old, in Rich and Poor of both Sexes, ſome of whom had been many Years afflicted with Epilepſies, and other Convulſive Diſorders, that have been either cured or received Benefit from this Divine Remedy; that I think myſelf bound in Conſcience to divulge the Uſe of it to

the World; ſince, as I have before obſerv'd, it is capable of doing greater things than ever I knew perform'd by any one Remedy, and I think it uncapable of doing any Hurt.

Another principal Reaſon that has induced me to it, is for the ſake of the Poor, the Meaneſt being able to procure it as well as the Rich, and that it wants little or no Skill in the Adminiſtration of it.

Whilſt the Virtues of Miſletoe were confin'd to that of the Oak only, it was of little or no Uſe to the World, as not being to be procured. I have been five and thirty Years a diligent Searcher after it, but never could yet ſee one Sprig; and as I have before obſerv'd, have never met with above two that had. If the common Miſletoe that is to be met with in every County of our Fortunate Iſland, is capable of doing as great things, as have ever been recorded of the Miſle-

toe of the Oak; I ſhall have that Pleaſure and Satisfaction of Mind, which generally redounds to thoſe that have the Happineſs of being Benefactors to the Age they live in, which I have in every Part and Circumſtance of Life endeavour'd.

But if from the common Voice of all Ages, and the modern Inſtances I have produced, Miſletoe of the Oak muſt ſtill be prefer'd; I do not doubt but every Oak in *England* may be made to produce Miſletoe by the Method I have before propos'd. And perhaps the *Druids* took that Method to propagate it upon ſuch Oaks as were for their turn. And when that can be had in plenty, it will be no great difficulty to diſtinguiſh whether it excels or not: But I am really of opinion, that all Miſletoe is the ſame, for the Reaſons before alledg'd.

In this Diſſertation I have carefully avoided entring into the Reaſon why Miſletoe is ſo excellent a Remedy in Epi-

Epilepſies, and of conſequence in all other Convulſive Diſtempers; but recommend it to the Uſe of the World from the large Experience I have had of it, which is the ſame way that the famous *Peruvian* Bark was uſher'd in: and perhaps the Experience of future Practitioners may make that matter more clear, than at preſent I am capable of doing. Nay, ſhould I attempt it, it would ſwell the Bulk, and of conſequence the Price of this Diſſertation, and be of no advantage to the ordinary ſort of People, whoſe Benefit by this Publication I propoſe as much as the Rich.

I began with it upon a Rational Foundation, and the Succeſs has anſwer'd my Expectation, even to my Amazement in ſome Inſtances. I don't doubt but others will try whether what I have ſaid be true; and when they ſee that it anſwers their Expectations alſo, I hope it will exerciſe the fine Genius's of the Age, to draw

Conſequences from it, that may be of great uſe.

As the Bark does ſometimes want an Auxiliary, to enable it entirely to overcome an obſtinate Quartan Ague; ſo I have ſometimes found that Miſletoe has done better in ſome obſtinate old Epilepſies, with the aſſiſtance of an Auxiliary, than alone.

A Dram of *Sal Martis* added to an Ounce of the Bark, will make that Ounce more effectually to cure an inveterate Quartan, than ſix times the quantity of the Bark alone will do without it: So I have ſometimes known a Dram of *Aſſa-fœtida* added to an Ounce of the Miſletoe-Powder, and made into an Electuary, make it act much more powerfully than alone.

Gentle Purging, and ſometimes Bleeding, are uſeful before the giving of the Miſletoe: but I have been for ſome Years afraid of giving Vomits, even of the gentleſt ſort, in Convulſive Diſtempers, from ſome terrible Acci-

Accidents that have been like to enſue from moderate Doſes of Ipecacuana itſelf; the ſafeſt, and perhaps the beſt Vomit that ever was made known to the World, barely as a Vomit to cleanſe the Stomach.

If the Plant be not dry'd, powder'd and preſerv'd in the manner I have directed, there is ſcarce any other way of keeping it, but that it will be render'd intirely uſeleſs. This I deſire may be carefully obſerv'd by every body.

I don't doubt but even Miſletoe of the Oak itſelf, or what People have called ſo, has often unſucceſsfully been given, from not being gather'd in right time; or if it has been ſo, either ill-dried, or not carefully preſerv'd afterwards.

From the Hints I have given, I hope others will be diſpoſed to try this Medicine to a further Extent than I have been able to do: I have been cramp'd in it, becauſe it was not to be

be had in more than two Apothecaries Shops, that I could depend upon for its being regularly managed. But for the future, ſince it will put them but to very ſmall Expence, I hope no Shop in the Kingdom will be without it.

If any one will be ſo good, as to communicate to me any, either Medicinal or Natural Obſervations, that they have already, or ſhall hereafter make, in relation to the Subject here treated of, they ſhall not fail of my moſt grateful Acknowledgments.

The End of the Firſt Part.

A

DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE:

A most Wonderful SPECIFICK REMEDY for the Cure of *Convulsive Distempers.*

Calculated for the Benefit of the Poor as well as the Rich, and heartily recommended for the Common Good of Mankind.

PART II.

By Sir *JOHN COLBATCH,*
A Member of the College of Physicians.

A

DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE.

THE Impreſſion of the firſt Part of the Diſſertation concerning Miſletoe having been kindly received, and ſold off; I have thought fit to add ſome farther Obſervations, and likewiſe to be more particular in my Directions for the Uſe of this amazing

Remedy, ſome People having complained of my being defective in that matter.

Now ſince I had nothing but the common Good in my View, in the publiſhing my Obſervations of the Qualities of this extraordinary Plant, I ſhall endeavour to make every thing as plain as I am able. And ſince the Poor are thoſe whom I chiefly aim at ſerving, what is farther to be added, I have thought fit to do by itſelf, that thoſe who have the firſt, may buy this apart.

It has been no ſmall Grief to me to obſerve, that when a Fever has reigned within the Limits of *London* to a greater degree than ever I have known it; when the *Bills of Mortality have been at the higheſt, the Article of Convulſions has been double to that of the Fever.

It is not improbable, but that many of thoſe Convulſions were the Conſequences of the Fever. Now, ſup-

ſuppoſing that true, I have ſometimes obſerv'd, that Miſletoe being brought in as an Aid, and given in large Quantities, will prevent the Fatality of even thoſe Convulſions.

The far greateſt number of Sick, not only in the Country, but even in *London* itſelf, are committed to the Care of the moſt ignorant Pretenders: now even theſe People would moſt certainly be glad to recover their Patients, for thereby they would eſtabliſh a Reputation, and ſecure a Livelihood: For the meaneſt of theſe Intruders, Miſletoe is a proper Remedy; it coſts little, will do no hurt, and, as even they are here inſtructed in the Uſe of it, will do eminent Good, and gain them Fame. If it fails of Succeſs, ſince their Patients are ſure not to be Sufferers by it, they can receive little Damage.

I have met with three or four in the compaſs of this Year that Miſletoe has not had the deſir'd effect upon;

one of which was a young Gentleman, whoſe Fits attack'd him only in his Sleep; (he formerly had had them when he was awake.) The Fits that attack People in their Sleep, I have always found moſt difficult to be overcome, as alſo to be accounted for: however, I am in my own Mind ſatisfy'd, that by a long-continu'd Uſe of this Medicine, or by taking it in a different Form from what he did, he is ſtill to be made well.

The reaſon for this my Opinion is, that the Texture of his Brain and Nerves is not yet ſo far broken, but that they ſtill ſeem capable of being repaired.

Another of which was a poor Youth of fifteen, who had had the Diſtemper from his Cradle; and tho' he had his Medicines for nothing, yet he wanted Clothes to ſecure him againſt Cold, and I doubt the common Neceſſaries at home.

His

His Fits were frequently ſtav'd off for whole Moons, which had never been known before; but upon return of cold Weather, for want of being well cloth'd, and other Accidents, the Fits would return again, and ſo I ſuppoſe continue to do: the Careleſſneſs of the Parents having diſcourag'd me from doing any thing more for him.

A third was a young Gentleman, who had only a Fit or two a Month; and in his Fits there was ſomething peculiar; but was not made well in three or four Months: ſo I left off viſiting him, there ſeeming a ſort of uneaſineſs that he was not free from his Fits in that time.

The fourth was a young Woman about twenty-three, whoſe good Mother had ſpent her whole Subſtance in ſeven Years Attempts to make her well. In the four Months I have had her under my Care, there has been ſeveral times an appearance as if ſhe would be made well: but Diſtreſs of

Mind

Mind from her miſerable reduced Circumſtances, having before liv'd well, has, I believe, eluded the force of the Medicine; tho I am ſtill in hopes to recover her, notwithſtanding her Caſe is moſt miſerable.

But theſe four Inſtances, where Succeſs has been wanting, are nothing in compariſon of the great numbers that have been made well.

I have lately come to the knowledge, that Miſletoe will, with very little trouble, yield its Tincture in Spirit of Wine. But, not to arrogate to myſelf what is not my due, I ſhall here declare the way how I came to the knowledge of it, which is as follows.

Mr. *Small* the Surgeon, being in the Shop of Mr. *Riddle* an Apothecary in *Villers-Street*, *York-Buildings*, as they were talking about the wonderful Effects of Miſletoe, Mr. *Small* ſaid, That it was great pity that the Powder was diſagreeable to ſome very nice Stomachs,

machs, as indeed I have ſometimes found it to be; he therefore deſir'd the other to try whether it would not yield a Tincture in highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine, as the Jeſuits Bark and *Virginian* Snake-Root did: If ſo, he did not ſee why it might not be more efficacious than the Powder, as the Tinctures of the other two were.

Mr. *Riddle* immediately ſet about it, and in a quarter of the time that either of the others would emit their Tincture, it afforded a rich and noble one: ſo he immediately brought me a Bottle of it, with which I was highly delighted.

Several of the Chymical Writers have recommended the Spirit of Miſletoe as an excellent Menſtruum to extract a Tincture from Red Coral. Now it being uſual for too many of thoſe Authors to publiſh things upon truſt, or the bare Whimſies of their own Brains, I reſolv'd to try this Affair myſelf, and not truſt it to any one elſe.

I filled a glaſs Retort as full of Miſletoe as it would contain, by cramming of it in. I then put the Retort into a Sand-Furnace. For twenty-four Hours I made ſuch a Fire as would heat the Sand well, but not make it red-hot: in this time, little or nothing at all came over into the Receiver. It is to be obſerv'd, that the Miſletoe was perfectly well dry'd, ſo that all its aqueous Humidity was gone. Afterwards I augmented the Fire, ſo as to make the Sand red-hot; and from about eight Ounces of Miſletoe, I had near two Ounces of acid Spirit, much about the ſame Strength, and not much differing in Taſte from the common Spirit of Vinegar.

What this acid Spirit will do as a Medicine, I have not yet tried; but may do it hereafter. This Spirit I poured upon two Drams of red Coral finely powder'd: it immediately fell to work upon the Coral, as any other acid Spirit of the ſame Strength would do.

do. I let it ſtand ſo for ſome time, without the Aſſiſtance of any external Heat. I afterwards put it into the Sand-Furnace, where I kept it about forty eight Hours, in a pretty ſtrong Heat, in a Bolt-Head with a very long Neck, that nothing might evaporate. It had in that time diſſolv'd a good Part of the Coral, as other acid Spirits of the ſame Strength would do; but extracted nothing out of the Coral, that might be called a Tincture.

From the niceſt Obſervations I have been hitherto able to make, the principal Life and Energy of Miſletoe conſiſts in its Reſin, as does that of the *Peruvian* Bark, and *Virginian* Snake-Root; and therefore by the means of highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine, a Tincture may be extracted from it that contains all or the greateſt part of its Virtues.

I am ſure that the Tincture of the *Peruvian* Bark, from many Years Experience, will cure an inveterate Quar-

tan Ague, better and more effectually than the Powder will do. Now when the Tincture is extracted from the Bark, what remains is no better than Saw-Duſt, which can never be digeſted by a human Stomach, and may lodge there, and in the *Plica* of the Guts, and do much miſchief: But with the Powder of Miſletoe it is not ſo, it being of a more lax and mucilaginous nature, and therefore can lodge no where to do hurt.

But it's not improbable that that Mucilage which is in the Powder, and hinders it from doing hurt, may ſo invelope the reſinous active Part of it, as ſometimes to hinder its doing that Good, which it will do alone, when diſſolved in Spirit of Wine.

Obſerve, that Spirit of Wine highly rectify'd, will no more touch the mucilaginous Part of the Miſletoe, than it will the Saw-duſt Part of the *Peruvian* Bark.

I am now fully convinced, that Miſle-

Miſletoe is almoſt, if not altogether, as certain a Specifick in the Cure of Epilepſies, and other convulſive Diſtempers, as the Bark is in curing Intermitting Fevers; and ſo, thanks to Providence, we have another Specifick.

In old and obſtinate Quartan Agues, the Bark will not overcome them without Difficulty, and Length of time; and ſometimes not at all, without the Aſſiſtance of the Salt of Steel, and ſome other Helps: and after all, upon any Irregularity, or taking Cold, the Ague will return with as great Violence as ever.

So it is in old inveterate Epilepſies, and other convulſive Diſtempers, Miſletoe alone will not ſometimes take place, but wants the Aſſiſtance of *Aſſa-fœtida*, and ſometimes of other things; which things, by themſelves, would prove of no effect at all. Upon Accidents, or Cold-taking, the Diſtemper will be apt to return; as it is with obſtinate Quartans. If

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If it ſometimes happen to fail in the curing of old inveterate Epilepſies; that may proceed from the Texture of the Brain and Nerves being ſo broken and deſtroy'd, as never to be able to admit of being repaired. This is no Argument againſt the Medicine's being a Specifick for the Cure of the Diſtemper in general, as it moſt certainly is, and will even do good to the Incurable.

But in recent Epilepſies, and even the St. *Vitis*'s Dance itſelf, it will, as far as I have ſeen, as certainly cure, as the Bark will a Quartan Ague; and is therefore by much the greater Remedy, by how much the one Diſeaſe is greater and more formidable than the other. But as it is ſo, a much greater Space of time is neceſſarily required for the extirpating of it, than of the other.

In Conſumptive Caſes, proceeding from a Decay of the Lungs, or any of the Noble Parts, it's very common

to

to ſee, during the time that Matter is forming, a regular Paroxiſm of a Fever, ſo exactly reſembling that of a common Ague, that no one thing can be more like another; beginning firſt with a cold ſhivering Rigour, after that with a hot burning Fit, and when that is gone off, with profuſe Sweats.

The Bark will rarely fail to ſtave off theſe Fits for a time, but would never, that I could yet obſerve, prevent their Return; and when they have return'd, it has been with greater Violence, and I fear with worſe Conſequence to the Patient, than if it had never been given. I am inclin'd to think I can aſſign a Reaſon for it; but that does not belong to this Place.

It very commonly happens, that Epilepſies, and other Convulſive Diſorders, are not original Diſeaſes, but Symptoms and Conſequences of ſome other Diſtemper or Accident.

As for inſtance, Worms corroding the moſt ſenſible Membranes of the Guts,

Guts, impaſſable Stones in the Ureters, wounded Nerves and Tendons, *&c.*

Miſletoe will frequently relieve People under all theſe Circumſtances, but will not cure them: But that may be ſaid of this, which cannot be ſaid of the Bark, That if it does not cure them, it will do no hurt. By the means of it, both Phyſicians and Surgeons may gain time, which is a thing of the greateſt conſequence: (*Qui dat Tempus, dat Vitam.*) By which means the greateſt Diſeaſes, and moſt terrible Accidents, may ſometimes be overcome.

I ſhall here give an Account of a Couple of Caſes which have fallen in my way, ſince the publiſhing of the Firſt Part of this *Diſſertation*, and very extraordinary ones they are.

About the middle of *December*, a very worthy Man in the City brought his Son to me, an only Child, of about eight Years of Age. About a

Year

Year and a half before, he had the Confluent Small-Pox: Soon after the Small-Pox was over, he was attacked with Epileptick Fits. The Father immediately had recourſe to a Phyſician of Eminence; he not ſucceeding, he applied to another, and ſo to a third: but whatever was done had no effect, for he every day grew worſe and worſe; ſo that at laſt his Parents determined to give him no more Medicines, deſpairing of a Cure. Notwithſtanding which, upon the Father's reading the *Diſſertation upon Miſletoe*, he alter'd his Mind, and immediately brought the Child to me.

It was as melancholy a Spectacle as could be beheld. From being a Child of lively Temper, and quick Underſtanding, he was become ſtupid. When he had no Fit upon him, his Muſcles were always in motion. If he were ſitting, he would dart himſelf out of his Chair, like an Arrow out of a Bow, hitting

hitting his Head againſt the Wall, or any thing elſe that was before him; ſo that they were forced to have one always with him, for fear he ſhould daſh out his Brains, or dart himſelf into the Fire, and deſtroy himſelf that way.

I preſcrib'd for him as follows:

'Take of the Powder of Miſſletoe, 'dried in the manner before directed, 'an Ounce; Aſſa-Fœtida, a Dram; 'Syrup of Pioneys, a ſufficient Quan-'tity to make an Electuary.'

Of this I order'd him to take the Quantity of a Nutmeg, firſt in the Morning, at five in the Afternoon, and laſt at Night; and to drink after each Doſe a Draught of the following Infuſion.

'Take of the whole Plant, Leaves, 'Berries, ſmall Twigs and large ones, 'groſsly bruis'd in a Mortar, four 'Ounces;

'Ounces; of the Flowers of red Pio-
'neys, one Handful; boiling Water,
'a full Quart: Infuſe in a Pot cloſe
'ſtopt by the Fire-ſide, for two Hours;
'then ſtrain out, and ſweeten with
'two Ounces of Syrup of Pioneys.'

For a Month, or ſomething more, he found little or no Benefit; nay, ſometimes the Fits would be more frequent and violent than they had been before: however this did not diſcourage the honeſt Parents, but on they proceeded, and had their Wiſhes and Expectations effectually anſwer'd. When he began to mend, he ſenſibly grew better every day, and by the end of *March* was perfectly recover'd, as brisk in his Temper, and as quick in his Underſtanding, as any Child, I think, I ever ſaw in my Life.

For Security-ſake, I deſir'd that he might take the Medicines Night and Morning for two or three Months longer, which was readily comply'd

with; and he has never had a Fit ſince.

Miſletoe generally keeps the Body open; but when it does not do it, it is neceſſary, once in three or four Days, to give ſome very gentle lenitive Medicine; but never any ſtrong Purge, which always does Miſchief in Epileptical Caſes.

It always kept this Child regularly open, ſo he had never any thing given him, from beginning to end, but what is here mentioned.

I own, that when I firſt ſaw this Child, I did apprehend his Caſe to be ſo very deſperate, that I did not think it poſſible for him ever to be made perfectly well: but, thro' God's Mercy, I was deceived.

On the twenty ſeventh Day of *December*, I was ſent for to a moſt beautiful young Lady of about eleven Years of Age, whoſe Circumſtances were moſt deplorable. She had the St. *Vitis*'s Dance in as extreme a manner,

ner, as, perhaps ever any one had: I had never ſeen any thing before like it.

Her Underſtanding was greatly impair'd; ſuch a Faultring in her Speech, that ſhe could ſcarce ſpeak a Word ſo as to be underſtood. All the Muſcles of her Body were continually convulſed, both in Bed and up. She could neither ſtand, nor uſe her Hands ſo much as to feed herſelf. For three or four Nights in the Week ſhe would never ſleep at all, but paſs the whole Nights in the moſt hideous Shrieks and Lamentations.

She was attack'd about three Years before with ſlight Epileptical Fits; upon which her tender Mother ſent for as able and honeſt a Phyſician as any of the Faculty. I am ſure he treated her with the utmoſt Compaſſion and Care; however all his Attempts proved ineffectual, for want of being thorowly acquainted with this glorious Specifick. The Diſeaſe got ground of him, till it arriv'd to the

Height before-mention'd, in ſpight of all he could do.

When I was called in, I earneſtly preſs'd that the former Phyſician might be continu'd, but that was refus'd: ſo I went on in the following manner.

I ſhall recite the whole in *Engliſh*, that the meaneſt Capacity may comprehend it.

It is to be obſerv'd in this young Lady, that in leſs than a Week there were manifeſt Signs of her growing better.

December 27. 1718. I order'd as follows:

'Powder of Miſletoe, a Scruple;
'Syrup of Pioneys, a ſufficient Quan-
'tity to make a Bolus, to be taken
'every ſix Hours; drinking after each
'ſix or ſeven Spoonfuls of the fol-
'lowing Infuſion.

'The whole Miſletoe, bruiſed as
'is before directed, three Ounces;

'Pioney-

' Pioney-Flowers, half an Handful ;
' Boiling-Water, twenty Ounces: In-
' fuſe in a Pot cloſe ſtopt, by the
' Fire-ſide, for an Hour; then ſtrain
' out. To the ſtrain'd Liquor add
' Compound Pioney-Water, and Sy-
' rup of Pioneys, of each an Ounce.

Twenty-ninth, I order'd the follow-ing Purge; and as ſoon as that had done working, to proceed in the Uſe of the Bolus and Infuſion. And for an Aid, to give her the moſt ſpeedy Relief poſſible under her miſerable Circum-ſtances, I directed Plaſters for her Feet, which I have frequently known to be of great uſe in Diſorders of the Head and Nerves.

The Purging Infuſion.

' Take of the Decoctum Sennæ
' Gereonis, two Ounces; Manna, half
' an Ounce; Compound Pioney-Water,
' two Drams: mix and make a Potion,
' to be given early in the Morning.

' Strain'd

' Strain'd Galbanum, three Drams;
' Powder of Nutmeg, one Dram:
' mix them together, and ſpread upon
' Leather, to be applied to the Soles
' of the Feet.

December the laſt, I order'd the Purging Potion to be repeated, and that ſhe ſhould go on with the Bolus and Infuſion: The Diſtreſs in the Night continued, but the Convulſions in her Nerves abated; ſo I order'd, that during the Time of thoſe Paroxiſms, ſhe ſhould frequently take a Spoonful of the following Mixture; and that a Plaſter of ſtrain'd Galbanum ſhould be applied to her Navel; and that the Plaſters to her Feet ſhould be renewed.

' *Aſſa-fœtida*, two Scruples; Rue
' and Pennyroyal Water, of each four
' Ounces; Compound Pioney-Water,
' an Ounce; Compound Spirit of La-
' vender, a Dram; fine Sugar, half

' an

an Ounce: mix them well together
' in a Mortar.

January the third, ſhe was much better every way; I then order'd
' three Grains of *Aſſa-fœtida*, and
' one Drop of Oil of Roſemary to
' be added to each Bolus.

In this Method ſhe continued to the end of *January*, ſenſibly mending every Day; I then order'd that ſhe ſhould take the Bolus and Infuſion but three times a Day, which ſhe continued to do till the end of *February*.

By that time ſhe was as well as ever ſhe was in her whole Life; ſhe could walk and ſpeak perfectly well; ſhe could not only feed herſelf, but ſew for her Diverſion.

For Security-ſake, I order'd the continuance of the Bolus and Infuſion, Night and Morning, till the End of *April*, which was readily complied with.

She

She continues perfectly well, without the leaſt Appearance, that ever ſhe had ſo long labour'd under ſuch a terrible Illneſs.

I was in *March* laſt called to a Gentleman, who was in as diſtreſſed a Condition as a human Creature could poſſibly be, labouring under a Complication of Diſtempers, one of which was a Convulſive Aſthma, which was ſo grievous to him, that he told me he had not been able to keep his Bed for a whole Night together, of three Months; and ſometimes for ſeveral Nights together, not to be able to lie down in his Bed at all, but to ſit up with Windows open upon him.

I ſhall not trouble you with his other Circumſtances, which were very grievous (from all which he is very well got over) but only give an account what Miſletoe did in the Cure of his Aſthma.

I order'd him to drink a large Draught of the following Emulſion every

every Night before he went to Bed, and at times to drink the whole Bottle before he roſe, if Sleep did not prevent it.

Helmont, I remember, calls the convulſive Aſthma *Caducus Pulmonum*, which coming into my Mind, occaſion'd my giving him this Medicine.

'I order'd four Ounces of bruis'd 'Miſletoe to be infus'd in a Quart 'of boyling Water for an Hour, 'then to be ſtrain'd out; when per-'fectly cold, to add half a Pint of '*Lisbon* White-wine: afterwards, with 'two Ounces of blanch'd Almonds to 'make an Emulſion, and to be ſweet-'ned with a ſufficient quantity of fine 'Sugar.'

To the beſt of my remembrance he never had one Fit of the Aſthma afterwards.

But obſerve what a quantity of Miſletoe he took every Night, even

as much as could be got out of four Ounces by Infuſion in Water.

Tho' I have obſerv'd before, that now it evidently appears to me, that the moſt active Part of the Miſletoe conſiſts in its Reſin, which is only to be extracted with Spirit of Wine; yet it not being ſo rugged a harſh Body as the Bark is, the Reſin being inve-lop'd in a ſlimy Mucilage, it will, by being infus'd in Water, part with ſome proportion of its Reſin, which the Bark will not; and, for ought I know, its Mucilage may be of great Uſe in many Caſes, eſpecially in young Children, to obtund the A-crimony of the Bile, which is apt to gripe them, and ſo the Powder may be better for them, than given any other way: But this muſt be left to Time and further Experience.

What I have hitherto done, till very lately, has been by the means of the Powder and Infuſion, and great things they are. If by the uſe of

the

the Tincture I ſhall be inabled to make a farther Progreſs, the World may expect to be inform'd of it in due time. It's but a few Weeks that I have been Maſter of the Tincture, but I already ſee that great things may be expected from it.

What I have obſerv'd, as to the Quantities the Gentleman before-mention'd took every Night, brings to my Mind what I often thought of; which is, that I believe many noble Medicines are laid aſide as uſeleſs, for want of having been given in due Quantities.

In recent Epilepſies, and ordinary Convulſions, which are Diſeaſes that were formerly wont to give me great Uneaſineſs, eſpecially the Epileptical ones; being conſcious to myſelf, from the moſt careful Obſervation, that there was little Proſpect of getting the Maſtery of them: I now look upon them as little more formidable than a Quartan Ague;

tho' in their outward Appearance and real Nature much more terrible.

The Caſes juſt now recited are ſufficient to demonſtrate to the World, that common Miſletoe is a great Medicine, and highly to be eſteem'd. As for Miſletoe of the Oak, I have never yet ſeen any.

Thoſe of the Antients, that were Men of Virtue and Compaſſion, whenever they had any thing to communicate to the World that might be of publick Advantage, always did it in the known and common Language: And as I deſign this for the common Good, were I able to write *Latin* in as elegant a Stile as *Cicero* did, that ſhould not induce me to ſend it abroad in any other way, than in the homely manner in which it is done.

I have turned over many Books, ſince I publiſh'd the firſt part of this *Diſſertation*, to ſee whether I could procure any farther light into the natural

Hiſtory of this wonderful Plant, but at preſent ſee no cauſe to retract what I have there advanced, nor indeed to add any thing, or very little.

Johannes Bauhinus has treated more copiouſly of it, than any of the Moderns I have read. *Scaliger*, in his way, has treated it very ſubtlely, but I think advances nothing but Paradoxes. To be ſhort, there is no one that takes notice of it, except *Cardan*, but thinks there is ſomething very extraordinary in it; yet the *Druids* alone, tho' they did not explain themſelves, ſeem to be the only Perſons who underſtood its real Worth.

In other Trees that are propagated, either by Grafting or Inoculating, the Grafts or Buds ſeem to become of the very ſame Subſtance with the Stock into which they are inſerted. But with Miſletoe it's quite otherwiſe, as appears plainly to the naked Eye; which I can ſhew to any one.

I have it from Dr. *Willis*, that it was the earneſt Wiſh of the great *Crato*, That a Specifick for the Cure of the Epilepſy might be diſcover'd before he died.

I do verily and indeed think, from the Tryals I have made in a Multitude of Caſes, beſides thoſe publiſh'd, that Miſletoe is in reality a Specifick for the Cure of Epilepſies and convulſive Diſeaſes.

Why it ſhould be ſo, I can as eaſily account for, from the Hypotheſis of Dr. *Willis*, as from that of *Marcus Marci*.

Whilſt I was writing this, I was called to a Gentleman in a Fever, that they ſaid was dying, and indeed he appear'd ſo to be; he had a trembling Pulſe, clammy cold Sweats, with a Convulſion of the Tendons, and a Faultring in his Speech, that he was ſcarce able to expreſs himſelf ſo as to be underſtood. I gave him the Miſletoe in Powder, mix'd with Cochineal

and

and the Tincture in a Julep, both in large quantities. This was late at Night, and next Morning he was recover'd to my Amazement. I verily believe the Patient would have died that Night, had it not been for the Miſletoe; not to diſparage Cochineal, which is a Medicine highly to be valued, and beyond all others that I ever ſaw, in Fevers of all ſorts. But of this perhaps another time.

I deſire, for the future, that the Bark of the large Stalks may be dry'd and powder'd with the Leaves, Berries, and ſmall Twigs, as being equal to, if not ſuperior in Virtue to either of them; but all together are beſt.

What there is particular in the Woody Part, I cannot at preſent tell; but have hitherto order'd it to be bruiſed promiſcuouſly with the reſt for Infuſions.

I have not yet dared to rob the Miſletoe of but few of its Berries; but from ſome Obſervations I have made

made of them, I am inclin'd to think, that they are the greateſt Reſtorers of decay'd Nature, ſwallow'd whole as they are, either green or dry, and a Draught of generous Wine to be drank after them; ten or a dozen every Night at going to Bed.

The greateſt Article of Convulſions in the Bills of Mortality, I take to be of Infant Children: The way of giving them the Miſletoe is as follows; and moſt prodigious things I have ſeen done by it.

'Take of the Powder of Miſletoe, 'as before directed, two Drams; Rue 'and Penny-royal Water, of each two 'Ounces; Syrup of Pioneys, half an 'Ounce: Mix them together, and 'give half a Spoonful, as oft as you 'can get them to take it.'

If they cannot be got to take it that way, mix a little of the Powder with ſome Panada.

If

If they are exceedingly griped and looſe, apply alſo the following Plaiſter to their Bellies:

'Venice-Treacle, and Oil of Nut-
'megs by Expreſſion, of each two
'Drams: mix them together, and
'ſpread upon ſoft Leather.'

If the Looſeneſs continues, give the following Gliſter:

'Diaſcordium made with Diaco-
'dium inſtead of Honey, a Dram;
'Powder of Miſletoe, half a Dram;
'Penny-royal Water, three or four
'Ounces; mix, and make a Gliſter,
'which give warm.'

If they are bound, which they rarely are when they are convuls'd, give them a little Manna in ſome of the Miſletoe Julep, and if that don't open them, the following Gliſter:

'Manna, two Drams; Miſletoe-'Powder, half a Dram; Penny-royal 'Water, three Ounces; Oil of Ca-'momile, two Drams: mix and 'make a Glister.'

To Children of about ten Years of Age may be given half a Dram of the Powder, with three Grains of Aſſa-Fœtida, three times a Day, and a Draught of the Infuſion afterwards.

Men and Women may take a Dram of the Powder, with five or ſix Grains of Aſſa-Fœtida, three or four times a day, according to the Urgency of the Caſe; drinking a large Draught of Infuſion afterwards, and may drink a Draught of the Infuſion betwixt whiles: Now the ſtronger the Infuſion is made, the better; ſo that it be not made ſo ſtrong as to nauſeate the Stomach.

Having for a great many Years ſeen the moſt convincing Proofs of the wonderful Effects of the Miſletoe itſelf,

ſelf, being only gather'd in a proper time, and carefully dry'd and powder'd; it never enter'd into my Head to make any Tryals about extracting a Tincture from it, tho I had long ago been convinced that its chief Excellence conſiſted in its Birdlime, which is a moſt wonderful, tractable, ſoft Reſin, and I knew diſſolvable in Spirit of Wine: nay, I have given the Birdlime alone, join'd with ſome proper Powder to make it into Pills, in a deplorable Caſe, with Succeſs.

But ſince the Tincture has been prepar'd, which is but a few Weeks ſince, I have reaſon to believe, from ſome Obſervations that I have already made, that in particular extraordinary Caſes, join'd with a ſmall Proportion of Tincture of Aſſa-Fœtida, that it will take place in a ſhorter time than the Powder will do; but I ſhall not give an Account of the Method how to extract the Tincture, till I have had a larger Experience of it.

However, both it, and the Miſletoe gather'd in due time, and carefully dry'd and powder'd, may be had at Mr. *Shorthoſe*'s, an Apothecary, over againſt *Hungerford-Market*, in the *Strand*, and at Mr. *Riddle*'s, an Apothecary in *Villars-ſtreet*, *York-Buildings*.

About the beginning of the laſt *October* I was ſent for to a Child of about eight Years of Age, who had the St. *Vitis*'s Dance.

She neither could ſtand nor ſit; her Hands were in continual Motion, that ſhe could not feed herſelf, nor hold any thing in them; her Head was continually thrown from ſide to ſide, or backwards or forwards; and her Speech entirely loſt.

This was a recent Caſe, of not above a Month's ſtanding, and by the beginning of this preſent *November* ſhe was made perfectly well.

To prevent Miſtakes, I ſhall here again give an Account how People may furniſh themſelves with Powder of Miſletoe

Miſletoe for the whole Year in Perfection.

Take of the Leaves, Berries, tender Twigs, and the Bark of the large Branches, gather'd at the latter end of *December*. Let them be dried over a Baker's Oven, which is a mild, conſtant and gentle Heat. When it is perfectly dried, let it be put into a Glaſs Jar, which muſt be cover'd with Leather, or ſtopt with a Cork, and kept in a warm and dry Place, that it may not grow mouldy.

Obſerve, that its being ſcorch'd in drying, or growing mouldy after it has been carefully dried, renders it of no value.

The Stalks that are preſerv'd for Infuſion, muſt, after they are dried, be carefully kept in a warm and dry Place.

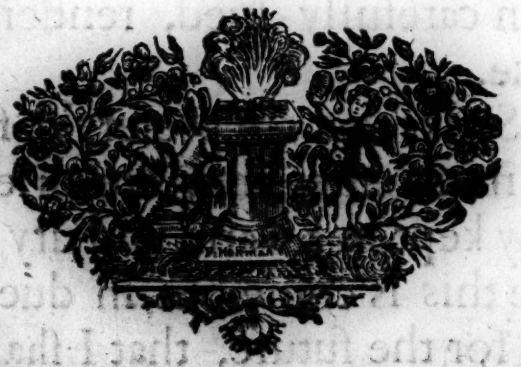
Since this is come out in due time, I hope, for the future, that I ſhall find every Apothecary's Shop furniſh'd with Miſletoe, gather'd at the proper Sea-

ſon,

ſon, and dry'd and powder'd according to Direction.

However, if what I have ſaid be diſregarded, and it prove otherwiſe, I have before given an account where People may furniſh themſelves with it.

I had it in my thoughts to have publiſh'd at this time, my Obſervations upon the noble Qualities of ſome other ſimple Remedies, *viz.* Cochineal, *Virginian* Snake-Root, and the very common Herb Prunella; but want of leiſure has prevented it.



POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the first Publication of the foregoing Dissertation, I have had Presents from two Persons of a small Quantity of true Misletoe of the Oak. By the best Observation I can make, I don't apprehend that it deserves in any Respect to be preferr'd before the Misletoe that grows upon other Trees.

I could have greatly swell'd the Number of Observations, but thought it altogether needless.

FINIS.

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